

CLAIMS:

1. An information processing apparatus having an input device, comprising:

an output portion for outputting information from said information processing apparatus to the external;

a built-in button for controlling the output portion in response to an input from the external;

a first input information receiving portion for receiving external input information from an external input device having keys different from the built-in button, said external input information being information input to any of said keys; and

a controlling portion for initiating the same processing as that performed when one or more of the built-in button are entered if the external input information matches preset configuration information.

2. The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said external input device is an external keyboard and said first input information receiving portion receives said external input information through the Application Programming Interface (API) of an operating system that manages the operation of application programs.

3. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first input information receiving portion is a module operating in user mode on said operating system;

said information processing apparatus detects said input information in said built-in button through firmware stored in a non-volatile memory of said information processing apparatus for controlling hardware of said information processing apparatus;

said controlling portion comprises a converting portion for converting said external input information into said built-in button input information; and

a reporting portion for reporting said converted input information to said firmware to cause said firmware to

initiate the same processing as that performed when said built-in button is entered.

4. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first input information receiving portion receives said external input information from said external input device having said plurality of keys; and

a controlling portion for initiating the same processing as that performed when said built-in button is entered if it is determined that a predetermined combination of keys among said plurality of keys is entered.

5. An information processing apparatus having built-in buttons as an input device and processing information in response to information input to said built-in buttons, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a first input information receiving portion for receiving code information specified in a code system different from the code system for said built-in button input information, said code information being information input to a plurality of keys different from said built-in buttons;

a converting portion for converting said code information into said built-in button input information if it is determined that said code information matches preset configuration information; and

a controlling portion for initiating the same processing as that performed when certain one or more of said built-in buttons are entered if said converted input information matches said information input to said certain one or more of said built-in buttons.

6. The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, comprising a built-in keyboard having said built-in buttons and said plurality of keys;

an external input device having said plurality of keys; and

a determining portion for determining whether or not said external input device is connected; wherein

said converting portion converts said code information if it is determined that said external device is connected, or

halts conversion of said code information if it is determined that said external input device is not connected.

7. The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said first input information receiving portion receives said code information from an operating system interrupted by depression of any of said plurality of keys; and

said information processing apparatus further comprises a second input information receiving portion for detecting the depression of any of said built-in buttons by periodically polling said built-in buttons.

8. The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said first input information receiving portion receives said code information from an operating system interrupted by depression of any of said plurality of keys; and

said information processing apparatus further comprises a second input information receiving portion for detecting

depression of a key on the basis of an interrupt to said operating system.

9. An information processing apparatus having a plurality of keys and built-in buttons, comprising:

a first input information receiving portion for receiving code information associated with depression of any of said plurality of keys detected through matrix scanning;

a second input information receiving portion for detecting input information to said built-in buttons different from said plurality of keys;

a converting portion for converting said code information into said built-in button input information if it is determined that said code information matches preset configuration information; and

a controlling portion for initiating the same process as that performed when certain one or more of said built-in buttons are entered if said converted input information matches said input information to said certain one or more

of said built-in buttons.

10. A control method, for controlling an information processing apparatus having an input device, comprising steps of:

outputting information from said information processing apparatus to the external;

controlling said output step in response to an input from the external to a built-in button;

receiving an external input information from an external input device having keys different from said built-in button, said external input information being information input through any of said keys; and

initiating the same processing as that performed when said built-in button is entered if it is determined that said external input information matches preset configuration information.

11. A control method, for controlling an information processing apparatus having a built-in button as an input device and

processing information in response to information input into said built-in button, comprising steps of:

receiving code information specified in a code system different from a code system for said built-in button input information, said code information being information input to a plurality of keys different from said built-in buttons;

converting said code information into said built-in button input information if it is determined that said code information matches preset configuration information; and

initiating the same processing as that performed when certain one or more of said built-in buttons are entered if said converted input information matches said information input to said certain one or more of said built-in buttons.

12. A method, for controlling an information processing apparatus having a plurality of keys and built-in buttons, comprising steps of:

receiving code information associated with depression of

any of said plurality of keys detected through matrix scanning;

detecting input information to said built-in buttons different from said plurality of keys;

converting said code information into said built-in button input information if it is determined that said code information matches preset configuration information; and

initiating the same process as that performed when certain one or more of said built-in buttons are entered if said converted input information matches said input information to said certain one or more of said built-in buttons.

13. A program for using a computer to control an information processing apparatus having an input device, causing said computer to function as:

an output portion for outputting information from said information processing apparatus to the external;

a built-in button for controlling said output portion in

response to an input from the external to a built-in button;

a first input information receiving portion for receiving an external input information from an external input device having keys different from said built-in button, said external input information being information input through any of said keys; and

a controlling portion for initiating the same processing as that performed when said built-in button is entered if it is determined that said external input information matches preset configuration information.

14. A method, for controlling an information processing apparatus having a built-in button as an input device and processing information in response to information input to said built-in button, causing said apparatus to function as:

a first input information receiving portion for receiving code information specified in a code system different from the code system for said built-in button input information,

said code information being information input to a plurality of keys different from said built-in buttons;

a converting portion for converting said code information into said built-in button input information if it is determined that said code information matches preset configuration information; and

a control portion for initiating the same processing as that performed when certain one or more of said built-in buttons are entered if said converted input information matches said information input to said certain one or more of said built-in buttons.

15. A program for using a computer to control an information processing apparatus having a plurality of keys and built-in buttons, causing said computer to functions as:

a first input information receiving portion for receiving code information associated with depression of any of said plurality of keys detected through matrix scanning;

a second input information receiving portion for detecting

input information to said built-in buttons different from said plurality of keys;

a converting portion for converting said code information into said built-in button input information if it is determined that said code information matches preset configuration information; and

a controlling portion for initiating the same process as that performed when certain one or more of said built-in buttons are entered if said converted input information matches said input information to said certain one or more of said built-in buttons.